

R E M A R K S

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 6 has been AMENDED and claims 7-25 have been added. No new matter is being presented and approval and entry of the amendments are respectfully requested.

Claims 6-25 are pending in the application.

AMENDED CLAIM 6:

The amendment to claim 6 improves clarity and does add limitation.

NEW CLAIMS 7-26:

New claims 7-26 particularly define over the prior art as follows.

Claim 6, and claim 7 and its progeny set forth a unitary non-flat portion of the snout loop. The Borchelt order form sets forth that a piece of felt can be wrapped and sewn as a layer. This neither teaches nor suggest a unitary construction. Further, sewing a piece of felt onto the head halter would provide a visual obstruction to the dog. Moreover, as stated in the Snoot Loop manual, the user has to apply the felt covering. A user therefore would not provide the felt covering until chaffing or irritation were already present. At that point it

would be too late. The claimed unitary non-flat member enables product use without modification.

Claim 6 and claim 17 and its progeny set forth a five ring construction. None of the applied art teaches or suggests use of five rings. The use of 5 rings increases comfort to the animal because they allow the fabric to mold to the canine head. None of the prior art teaches or suggests the claimed five ring construction to mold to the canine head.

Claim 22 and its progeny set forth that a buckle connects a first end of a collar member to a plurality of positions along a second end of the collar member by piercing through spaces defined by weaves of woven fabric. The prior art references teach use of hard tight fabric that have a series of predefined holes in the collar. As set forth by Borchelt, "Do NOT try to adjust the Snoot Loop while it is on your dog." By buckling into the woven fabric, the claimed head halter offers an advantage over the prior art in that no pre-adjustment of the head halter is needed.

A timely notice of allowance of claims 6-25 are respectfully requested.

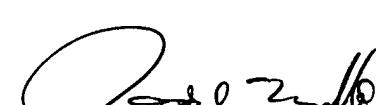
CONCLUSION

All rejections of the Examiner have been complied with, properly traversed, or rendered moot. Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions after reviewing this Amendment, he is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney so that this case may receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/20/02
704 South 18th Street, #200
Arlington, VA 22202-2702
Telephone: (703) 271-0600
Facsimile: (703) 271-0601
TEM/sef



Todd E. Marlette

Registration No. 35,269